MISUSE) Bill, 1991 introduced in the Lok Sabha on 12-9-1991 was referred to a Joint Committee of both Houses. The Joint Committee has since submitted its report.

Government intends that the bill may be considered during the current session of the Parliament.

The Bill, provides for penalty for those indulging in pre-natal sex test.

**Inadequate facilities in blood banks**

220. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 50 per cent of the blood bank in the country do not possess blood testing and other necessary facilities;

(b) whether it is also a fact that 80 per cent of the persons manning these banks are untrained.

(c) whether it is also a fact that absence of these facilities are a potent cause of AIDS in the country; and

(d) if so, what steps Government have already taken or propose to take to deal with this problem affectively?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Testing facilities for routine tests for blood are available in almost all blood banks. Now facilities for HIV Testing have also been provided.

(b) The staff possess basic training. Now blood bank technicians have been trained in testing for HIV. However, most of the staff do not have formal training in transfusion medicine.

(c) and (d) The Government have taken up a comprehensive plan to modernise all the blood banks in the public sector so that the blood banks can carry out the required tests for blood transmissible diseases. For HIV testing 160 zonal blood testing centres have been established. Efforts have also being made for promoting voluntary blood donations through information education and communication.

**Appointment of Electropathy Doctors in Government Hospitals in Delhi**

221. SHRI JAGANNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any suggestion to adjudge the efficacy of Electropathic Medicines by appointing a few Electropathy qualified doctors in a few recognised Government Hospitals in Delhi;

(b) whether it is a fact that for finding out the response of medicines of any particular medical system, the doctors of that system should be encouraged to work in Government recognised hospitals; and

(c) how much time Government will take to consider the suggestion for posting qualified Electropathy doctors in Government Hospitals to know the efficacy of the Electropathic Medicine?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Since the System of Medicine is not recognised, the question of posting of Electropathy practitioners in Government Hospitals for providing treatment to patients does not arise.

**Non-utilisation of the Cities Scanner Unit in Swamy Dayanand Hospital in Delhi**

222. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL:
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report appeared in Indian Express dated 7th January, 1993; regarding non-utilisation of the Cities Scanner Unit costing over Rs. 4 crores which is gathering dust in the MCD's run

Swamy Dayanand Hospital in Delhi; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Government with regard thereto stating the action taken by the Government on the negligence of the hospital authorities for non-utilization of the scan unit which has been purchased at a high cost?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Municipal Corporation of Delhi have informed that keeping in view the needs of the population of Trans-Yamuna area, a whole body CAT Scan was purchased. The suppliers are expected to take about five months time to complete installation, as the installation work had to be awarded on competitive rates. The proposal was approved in September, 1992, work has commenced and is likely to be completed in July, 1993. Steps have also been taken to have the staff and doctors trained before the installation is completed.

**Rate in Infant and Adult Mortality in the Country**

223. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL:
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:
SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rate of infant and adult morality caused by Kalajar, Cholera and various deadly diseases is high in our country at present; and

(b) if so, the details of special programmes being launched to bring down the rate of infant and adult mortality in those states alongwith the names of the concerned states?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) Though cosiderable reduction has taken place in the rate of mortality, as may be seen from the following statement, the rate is still high :—

| Infant mortality rate | 1976 | 1991 |
|---|---|---|
| | 129 | 80 |
| Crude death rate | 1971 | 1991 |
| | 14.9 | 9.8 |
| Average life expectancy at birth | 1961-71 | 1991-96 |
| | 54.4 yrs. | About 61 yrs. |

Government have launched the following control programmes for various diseases :—

1. National Malaria Eradication Programme.
2. Kala-azar Control Programme.
3. National Tuberculosis Control Programme
4. University Immunization Programme
5. Oral rehydration Therapy and Intensified Programmes for control of Acute Respiratory Infections in children.
6. Child Survival and Safe Motherhood Programme.
7. Diarrhoeal Diseases Control Programme.
8. National Cancer Control Programme.

**Poor performance of National Tuberculosis Control Programme**

224. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that even after three decades, the results of the National Tuberculosis Control Programme (NTP) have been uniformly poor;